



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/31/2003

GAIN Report #TH3037

Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2003

Approved by:

**Rodrick McSherry, Agricultural Counselor
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok, Thailand**

Prepared by:

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Export prices changed slightly as market remained quiet.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

Indicative Price (Week Ending Mar 31):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	462	445	487	478	470	445	480	462	470
WR 100 B	200	203	202	201	200	198	198	200	200
PB 5%	184	198	193	192	188	193	186	191	191
WR 5%	195	198	198	196	195	193	193	195	196
WR 10%	191	193	195	191	191	190	188	191	191
WR 15%	186	188	192	184	186	187	183	187	187
WR 25%	181	181	187	177	181	171	178	179	178
WR 35%	177	176	185	174	177	168	173	176	175
A 1 SUP	144	146	143	144	144	141	140	143	143
A 1 SPEC	141	144	142	142	141	NQ	139	142	142
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice changed slightly. Trade sources reported that markets for non-fragrant rice remained quiet, fueled by the current gulf crisis. In addition, Thai rice prices are still unattractive despite new supplies of second-crop paddy, compared with cheaper Vietnam rice price.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
FEB 23	76,143	80,208	616	1,120
MAR 2	92,369	85,646	708	1,256
MAR 9	47,288	76,348	755	1,384
MAR 16	72,278	72,019	827	1,541
MAR 23	77,084	72,255	905	1,666
MAR 30	74,718	67,842	979	1,785

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002 do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Mar 24-30, 2003, totaled 74,718 tons, down 2,366 tons from the previous week's total and up 6,876 tons from the four week moving average of 67,842 tons. Exports during Jan 1- Mar 30, 2003, totaled 979 thousand tons, compared with 1,785 thousand tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan1 - Mar 20, 2003 amounted to 1,414,688 tons, down 12.1 percent from 1,609,027 tons during the same period in 2002.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Mar 10-14, Mar 17-21 and Mar 24-28, 2003 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Mar 10-14	Mar 17-21	Mar 24-28
weekly sales	74,331	65,045	57,899
4 week sum	296,647	314,389	296,191
4 week mov avg.	74,162	78,597	74,048
Total weekly sales	936,707	1,001,752	1,059,651